

PRIORITIZATION / PHASING CRITERIA AND INSTRUCTIONS (INSTRUCTIONS FROM SAC SUBCOMMITTEE)

These worksheets should be used to determine your preliminary opinion regarding the relative priority of the action plans to assist in phasing of their implementation. MBNMS staff will collect the worksheets and provide a summary to the Advisory Council prior to its discussion on August 6th. MBNMS staff will provide the average “scores” of the action plans as well as a determination of those action plans that may have had a very wide variability in scores and therefore may warrant significant discussion by the Advisory Council in August. These scores are preliminary only and are meant to help refine the discussion at the August Advisory Council meeting. This worksheet should be mailed to Sean Morton at MBNMS, 299 Foam Street, Monterey, CA, 93940. Worksheets may also be faxed to 831-647-4250. If you have any questions regarding how to fill out the worksheet or this process, please do not hesitate to contact Sean at 831-647-4217 or via email at sean.morton@noaa.gov.

Review of the action plans and the strategies will be very important to make a meaningful determination of priority as well as a contribution the Council’s discussion in August. Members should look to the action plans as they were provided to the Council in June 2003 as their primary reference, however, members should also review the recommendations provided to the MBNMS at their meetings in August of 2003 and the final draft of the Special Marine Protected Area plan accepted at the December 2003 meeting in Half Moon Bay. To review the SAC recommendations please go to the SAC web page and review the minutes from July 31, August 1, and August 22 (<http://www.montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2003/073003/sacmin.html>). If you do not have a copy of the proposed action plans, you can download copies from the JMPR website (http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/m_reptoad.html) or call Nicole Capps at 831-647-4206.

The following two criteria are to be used in providing the SAC’s advice to the MBNMS:

Consideration of Benefits: The subcommittee decided the benefits would be best determined by consideration of four of the “purposes and policies” from the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. Therefore when considering the benefit to the site and determining a “score”, one should consider the value of the action plan:

- To maintain the natural biological communities in the MBNMS, and to protect, and, where appropriate, restore and enhance natural habitats, populations, and ecological processes;
- To enhance public awareness, understanding, appreciation, and wise and sustainable use of the marine environment, and the natural, historical, cultural, and archeological resources of the MBNMS;
- To support, promote, and coordinate scientific research on, and long-term monitoring of, the resources of the MBNMS;

- To facilitate to the extent compatible with the primary objective of resource protection, all public and private uses of the resources of the MBNMS not prohibited pursuant to other authorities.

The subcommittee determined that there should be a single score for benefits but Council members should make a determination of that overall score by scoring the four criteria individually and making a fifth “summary” score for the purposes of discussion with fellow SAC members and providing advice to MBNMS.

Consideration of Urgency: The subcommittee decided that when considering what makes an issue urgent then one should determine if the issue/problem is or has the potential to adversely impact resources that may be persistent, getting worse with time/deteriorating, increasing in frequency, wide spatial extent, or non-reversible, or alternatively, whether it positively addresses an issue that has a narrow “window of opportunity.” Also, consider whether there is a risk of not taking immediate or timely action and whether this must be implemented immediately to support the national marine sanctuaries programs and policies. When scoring, the action plans, assign a “3” to those issues that should be implemented in Year 1, a “2” to those action plans that could be implemented in Year 2 or Year 3, and a “1” to those issues that could be implemented in Year 4 or 5.